

**BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

In the Matter of the Revocation	)	
	)	
or Suspension of the Educators	)	<b>ORDER OF SUSPENSION</b>
	)	<b>(BREACH OF CONTRACT)</b>
Certificate of Bobbie J. Altman	)	
	)	
Certificate # 212131	)	

**SUMMARY OF THE CASE**

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on August 12, 2003. On June 20, 2003, the State Department of Education (Department) sent Ms. Bobbie J. Altman a notice of her right to a due process hearing regarding the possible suspension of her South Carolina educators certificate (certificate) by certified mail, return receipt requested, delivery restricted to addressee. Ms. Altman received the notice, as evidenced by the signed postal receipt. Ms. Altman did not request a hearing during the period allowed by law, and is now in default. After considering the evidence presented, which was undisputed by Ms. Altman, the State Board voted to suspend Ms. Altman's certificate for one year.

Ms. Altman holds a valid certificate, and was a first year teacher at Darlington High School (District) through the Program for Alternative Certification in Education (PACE). On April 7, 2003, Ms. Altman notified the principal of her intention not to return for the 2003-2004 school year. On April 22, 2003, the District Personnel Director wrote her a letter accepting her resignation, effective May 24, 2003. After deciding not to return for the following year, Ms. Altman notified her principal shortly before April 25, 2003, that she would have to leave her teaching position on April 25th, instead of the end of the school year as she originally planned. District officials notified Ms. Altman orally and in writing that this would not be acceptable and that she should report to work as usual until her earlier resignation could be considered. Ms. Altman did not return to work even

though she understood the District would file a complaint with the State Board if she chose to leave her duties on April 25<sup>th</sup>. On May 12, 2003, the District Board voted to file a complaint against Ms. Altman with the State Board, and requested the suspension of Ms. Altman's certificate for one year.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

The State Board may suspend the certificate of any person for breach of contract. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-530 (1990). Unprofessional conduct includes breach of contract. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (1990); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (1992). The State Board finds that there is conclusive evidence supporting its decision to suspend Ms. Altman's certificate # 212131 for a period of one year from August 12, 2003, through August 11, 2004, on the ground of unprofessional conduct due to breach of contract. At the end of the suspension period if she wants her certificate reinstated, Ms. Altman may make a written request for reinstatement to the Office of Teacher Education and Certification of the Department.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By:     /S/ Greg Killian    

Greg Killian

Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

August 12, 2003